

## Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 TEL AV 03634 091618 Z

51

ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 /026 W  
----- 015871

R 091514 Z MAY 73  
FM AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8361  
INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN  
AMEMBASSY BEIRUT  
USINT CAIRO  
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

S E C R E T TEL AVIV 3634

EXDIS

E O 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, EG, IS

SUBJECT: ISRAELI ESTIMATE OF SADAT' S INTENTIONS

1. IN COVERSATION MAY 9 MINISTER OF POLICE ( AND CABINET ARAB EXPERT) SHLOMO HILLEL TOLD CHARGE HE STRONGLY DOUBTS SADAT HAS ANY INTENTION OF CARRYING OUT THREATS OF MILITARY ACTION AGAINST ISRAEL. IF ANYTHING, HILLEL SAID, HIS OPINION HAS STRENGTHENED OVER PAST THREE WEEKS THAT SADAT IS ONLY MAKING THREATS FOR PURPOSE OF BUILDING UP TENSION IN ANTICIPATION OF UN DEBATE ON MIDDLE EAST IN EARLY JUNE.

2. HILLEL SAID SADAT HAS THREATENED SO MANY TIMES THAT CREDIBILITY OF HIS THREATS HAS DECLINED. THEREFORE, THIS TIME, IN ORDER TO TRY TO BE TAKEN SERIOUSLY HE HAS HAD TO MAKE IT LOOK AS MUCH AS POSSIBLE AS IF HE REALLY INTENDED TO STRIKE. IF IT IS ACCEPTED, AS HILLEL BELIEVES, THAT SADAT KNOWS HE COULD NOT WIN ANYTHING ON GROUND BY MILITARY ACTION AND THAT HIS PURPOSE IS TO TRY TO GAIN POLITICAL INTERVENTION BY GREAT POWERS BY MAKING IT APPEAR THAT SITUATION IS CRITICAL, THEN SADAT MUST LIMIT HIMSELF TO THREATS AND MUST AVOID IMPLMENTING THEM AT ALL COSTS. IF HE SHOULD CARRY OUT THREAT AND ATTACK, HIS DEFEAT WOULD BE IMMEDIATE AND TOTAL AND THIS WOULD HAVE OPPOSITE AFFECT IN INTERNATIONAL ARENA FROM WHAT HE IS TRYING TO ACCOMPLISH.

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MOREOVER, IT COULD HAVE DISASTROUS RESULTS FOR HIM PERSONALLY.  
HILLEL THEREFORE, FELT, BARRING THE ALWAYS- PRESENT POSSIBILITY  
OF SUICIDAL BEHAVIOR, THAT THERE IS NO REALISTIC REASON TO  
FEAR OUTBREAK OF VIOLENCE ON EGYPTIAN FRONT.  
ZURHELLEN

SECRET  
NMAFVVZCZ

\*\*\* Current Handling Restrictions \*\*\* n/a  
\*\*\* Current Classification \*\*\* SECRET

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
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**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
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**Control Number:** n/a  
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**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
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**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
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**Disposition Reason:**  
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